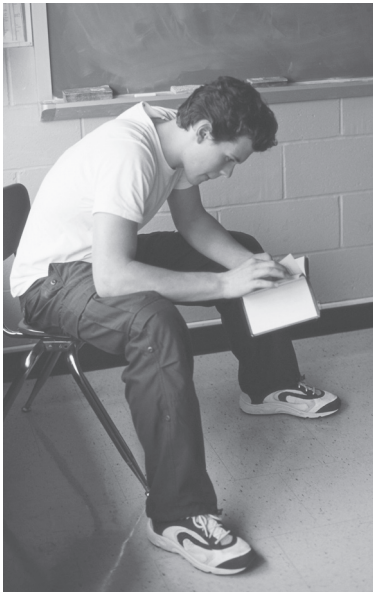


# SW WASHINGTON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

FUNDED BY THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT



## Program Overview

Three school districts in Southwest Washington are participating in the Drop-Out Prevention and Intervention Program (DPI), funded by the Governor's 10 percent Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds. Selected by the State because of their low high school comple-

tion rates, each district received \$34,000 with a goal of serving at least 15 WIA eligible youth (ages 14-21, low-income and have at least one barrier to success) in each district, between October 2004 and March 2006. Leveraged Basic Education Act (BEA) funds have been used to serve additional, non-WIA eligible students.

Managed by the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), the region's workforce investment board, and supplemented by the Educational Service District (ESD) 112's Youth Workforce Program, the DPI program has enabled each district to devise a drop-out prevention and retrieval strategy to meet the particular needs of their district. Because of the dedication of program staff, each district has exceeded its initial performance goals serving a combined total of 129 youth who had dropped out or were at risk of dropping out. This report provides detail on the success of this small but critical program.

## Results

To date, the program has been highly successful, with 38 drop-outs retrieved back into the schools, 15 students successfully receiving their high school diploma, and 91 at-risk students reengaging and getting back on track to graduate. Together, the 47 WIA students earned 96.5 credits during this time frame.

Youth Enrolled	WIA Youth	Non-WIA Youth	TOTAL YOUTH
Youth At-Risk	32	59	91
Dropouts	15	23	38
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>129</b>
Diplomas Earned	6	9	15

It is important to note that because of the partnership with ESD 112's Youth Workforce Program, the WIA eligible youth participating in this program were able to access a much more in-depth array of services than the non-WIA eligible youth, such as paid work experience, occupational skills training and support services.

## PARTICIPATING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PARTNERS:

- Battle Ground School District
- Longview School District
- Vancouver School District
- Educational Service District 112
- SW Washington Workforce Development Council

## HOW IT WORKS...

### Battle Ground School District

**Program Focus:** Drop-out retrieval and prevention for juniors and seniors. **Enrollment:** 47

**Strategy:** Identify seniors who have dropped out or who are not on target to graduate with their class. Provide one-on-one support to develop a plan to return to school and complete high school. Provide transportation to those students who lack transportation resources. Enroll WIA eligible students in the Youth Workforce Program to provide individualized support, including academic assistance, occupational skills training, paid work experiences, and support services.

#### Results:

Youth Enrolled	WIA Youth	Non-WIA Youth	TOTAL YOUTH
Youth At-Risk	11	5	16
Dropouts	8	23	31
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>47</b>
Diplomas Earned	5	7	12

**Program Staff:** Kay Potter (BGSD), Don Cyr (BGSD), Kathy Jensen (ESD 112)

### Longview School District

**Program Focus:** Drop-out prevention for incoming freshman. **Enrollment:** 12

**Strategy:** Enroll eighth grade students who did not pass the 7th grade WASL in a four week summer school session focused on enhancing reading skills and exploring career options. Provide handheld devices as an incentive, reward and educational tool for participating students. Provide monthly training and academic support sessions throughout the year to help students organize their time and homework assignments. Enroll WIA eligible students in the Youth Workforce Program for additional, individualized support, including academic assistance, occupational skills training, paid work experiences, and support services.

#### Results:

Youth Enrolled	WIA Youth	Non-WIA Youth	TOTAL YOUTH
Youth At-Risk	10	2	12
Dropouts	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
Diplomas Earned	n/a	n/a	n/a

- **Improved Reading Skills:** Students made an average reading grade level growth of .82 grade levels. One student had an increase of two grade levels and four students had an increase of one grade level.
- **Improved Attendance:** Students showed a marked improvement in attendance over the same period last year. Last year absences averaged 12.7 days; in the same quarter this year absences averaged 3.6 days – a decrease of 72 percent.

**Program Staff:** Jodell Allinger (LSD), Deb Gribskov (LSD), Tom Johnson (LSD), Ron Yauchzee (LSD), Kim Mitchell (ESD 112), Ryan Smith (ESD 112)

Vancouver School District

**Program Focus:** Drop-out prevention and intervention (all grades). **Enrollment:** 68  
**Strategy:** Identify and locate youth who have dropped out and work with them to remove barriers and return them to school. Identify youth at risk of dropping out and provide interventions to keep them in school. Enroll WIA eligible students in the Youth Workforce Program to provide individualized support, including academic assistance, occupational skills training, paid work experiences, and support services.

Results:

Youth Enrolled	WIA Youth	Non-WIA Youth	TOTAL YOUTH
Youth At-Risk	9	52	61
Dropouts Reenrolled	7	0	7
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>68</b>
Diplomas Earned	1	2	3

**Program Staff:** Marilyn Gaffrey (VSD), Daryl Eccleston (VSD), Wendy Butler (ESD 112), Huyen Shaw (ESD 112)

WHO IT HELPS...

All of the students involved in the Drop-Out-Prevention and Intervention Program have faced challenges above and beyond those of an average high school student.

WIA participants in the program are low income teenagers who are likely to have significant disruptions in their home life that take away from their ability to focus on their education. They may be homeless, in foster care, parenting, involved with the court system, have a disability, or struggling with drug and/or alcohol issues.



The majority of the students enrolled in the program are credit deficient relative to their peers, have struggled academically, and have attendance problems. Examples include:

- **Student A** was a homeless youth who had dropped out of school. He was contacted by school staff and encouraged to return to school. He has since found housing, gained paid work experience through a Youth Workforce Program career academy, and is on target to graduate this June.
- **Student B** was a drop-out with a young child. She returned to school, graduated, and availed herself of resources through the Youth Workforce Program. She is currently studying for her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license and is encouraging her sister to return to school.
- **Student C** had significant truancy issues and was at-risk of dropping out. He was reengaged in school, has secured a position as a barista in the coffee shop at ESD 112, is taking his driver's education course, has improved his attendance and is determined to finish school.

# About the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council

The SWWDC’s mission is to support economic development by developing a trained and productive workforce in Southwest Washington. To that end, the SWWDC creates partnerships between business and educational organizations, supports training programs and creates a system whereby employers can find qualified employees and employees can find careers at which they will excel.

Lead by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, education, community-based organizations and government agencies, the SWWDC responds to the unique needs of our greater community. With attention given to adults coming from challenging economic climates, displaced workers requiring retraining, or youth needing skills, the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council uses the resources provided under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to provide the tools needed to get people to work.

For more information about the Drop-Out Prevention and Intervention Program, contact Brandi Stewart via email at [bstewart@swwdc.org](mailto:bstewart@swwdc.org) or 360-567-1070.

## About Educational Service District 112’s Youth Workforce Program

The Youth Workforce Program (YWP) provides support to young people as they work towards finishing their high school education and begin thinking about their future. During this time, many students realize that they lack the skills employers desire and that without skills, they will remain stuck in low paying jobs with very little hope for advancement. The Youth Workforce Program is designed to assist young people from Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties as they begin employment or complete their secondary or post-secondary education.

The Youth Workforce Program’s Workforce Development staff work closely with youth to develop an individual plan, taking in account the youth’s interests, skills and motivation. Most youth remain in the program for 9 to 18 months, gaining additional education through classes, academic support for secondary or post secondary education or training, and real world work experience. Youth also gain exposure to multiple careers, communities, businesses, opportunities for leadership development, and adult role models who help them navigate the road to self-sufficiency and success. Perhaps most importantly, youth gain a greater understanding of their skills and abilities and the confidence to know that they can achieve success.

Participants in the YWP face multiple challenges that make attainment of a high school diploma or a job that can lead to self-sufficiency difficult. Not only are these young people low income, but the majority have had few strong role models on which to base their future. Participants in the YWP youth may be in the foster care system, be parenting, involved in the criminal justice system, have a disability, have



dropped out of school, and/or be basic skills deficient. Many have never written a resume, held a job, or realized how their high school education is the first step to success as an adult. Of the 300 youth who completed the YWP last year, more than 90 percent completed the program with a positive outcome such as high school completion, employment or enrollment in post-secondary education.

For more information about the Youth Workforce Program, contact Jeanne Bennett via email at [jeanne.bennett@esd112.org](mailto:jeanne.bennett@esd112.org) or 360-750-7500.